

*With Paul Q. Karkeek's compliments.*

BOROUGH OF TORQUAY.

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**Annual Report**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,**

THE

TENTH REPORT OF THE SANATORIUM,

THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT,

AND AN

Abstract of Meteorological Observations,

**For 1894.**



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1894.

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MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS,

**BIRTH RATE.** During the year 1894, 497 births have taken place in the Borough of Torquay, or 19·4 per 1,000. This is 23 less than in 1893; 37 less than in 1892; and 58 less than in 1891. I have the records of the past sixteen years, and according to these, if taken in two periods of eight years each, it will be found that the average for the first period, viz., from 1878 to 1885, is 614; and for the second period, viz., from 1886 to 1893, the average is 524. This shows that there are 117 less births per annum now, than there were in the first period; and 27 less than in the second period. The population has increased since 1878, and yet the number of births is rapidly diminishing. I have seen no notice of this interesting fact having been observed in other towns, but it is very remarkable.

**DEATH RATE.** The number of deaths which have occurred is 410, or 16 per 1,000. This is 25 less than in 1893 and 10 less than in 1892, while the average for the previous ten years is 399, so that the past year is slightly above the average. These results are obtained on the supposition that our population is 25,000 (at the last census it was 25,488).

Of these 43 occurred among visitors and strangers, so that after making the usual deduction the rate will be 14·4 per 1,000, as compared with 14·7 in 1893, 14·4 in 1892, and 13·8 in 1891.

# Death Rate for Torquay, as required by the Local Government Board for 1894.

NAME OF DISEASE.		UNDER 5 YEARS.		OVER 5 YEARS.	
Small Pox	...	0	...	0	...
Scarlatina	...	1	...	0	...
Diphtheria	...	1	...	0	...
Membranous Croup	...	1	...	0	...
Typhus	...	0	...	0	...
Enteric	...	0	...	8	...
Continued	Fevers	0	...	0	...
Relapsing		0	...	0	...
Puerperal		0	...	0	...
Cholera	...	0	...	0	...
Erysipelas	...	0	...	0	...
Measles	...	0	...	0	...
Whooping Cough	...	4	...	0	...
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	...	3	...	0	...
Rheumatic Fever	...	0	...	0	...
Ague	...	0	...	0	...
Phthisis	...	0	...	71	...
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	...	33	...	39	...
Heart Disease	...	0	...	43	...
Injuries	...	0	...	9	...
All other Diseases	...	57	...	140	...
		100		310	

Total for 1894 ... 410

These figures should be compared with those of previous years, as seen in the following table:—

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN TORQUAY FOR TEN YEARS.

CAUSES.		'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94
Small Pox	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlatina	...	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Diphtheria	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
Membranous Croup	...	2	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	1
Fevers {	Typhus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Enteric or Typhoid	0	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	8
	Continued	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Relapsing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Puerperal	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cholera	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	...	2	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Measles	...	5	4	0	12	2	1	3	8	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	5	3	2	1	0	16	0	2	8	4
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	...	2	3	3	1	3	1	1	3	2	3
Rheumatic Fever	...	1	5	1	3	1	0	4	1	1	0
Ague	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis	...	60	61	52	64	52	67	67	60	70	71
Bronchitis, Pleurisy, and Pneumonia	...	55	59	38	52	51	63	53	64	64	72
Heart Disease	...	35	39	39	39	48	36	44	38	35	43
Injuries	...	8	3	9	6	10	8	9	13	17	9
All other Diseases	...	218	228	184	228	199	235	214	228	235	197
Total	...	396	412	333	408	370	429	402	420	435	410



The cause of death among visitors was as follows: Phthisis 22; Heart Disease 8; Bronchitis 4; Injury 1, and all other diseases 8; total 43. This is 14 less than in 1893, and 8 less than in 1892.

**COMPARATIVE TABLE OF THE AGE AT WHICH DEATH OCCURRED.**

	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
1885	396	65	37	15	25	114	140
1886	412	73	27	9	37	124	142
1887	333	54	18	9	36	85	131
1888	408	68	36	12	35	120	137
1889	370	67	25	18	28	102	130
1890	429	81	37	16	30	112	153
1891	402	55	25	19	27	105	171
1892	420	74	34	8	25	103	176
1893	435	69	25	9	28	151	153
1894	410	62	38	8	36	114	152

THE ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE will be (18 deaths) .74, which is higher than (.5), 1893, or (.62) 1892. This figure is the real criterion of the health of a district, and should on all occasions be carefully examined. It may sometimes happen that the rate is run up by an epidemic of Measles or Whooping Cough; but such cannot be said to have been the case this year.

**SMALL POX** There has been but one case, and that a visitor. He was removed to the Sanatorium and made a good recovery.

**SCARLATINA** We have had a great number of cases; indeed, during the greater part of the year this disease may be said to have been almost endemic. By far the majority have been very mild, and I somehow suspect that many cases escaped detection altogether. I have been obliged to close two schools on account of the prevalence of this disease among the children, and it is wonderful how the number of cases drop when the schools are closed; and how it rises after the holidays. I must take this opportunity of thanking the Masters and Mistresses of the Public Schools for their hearty co-operation and assistance during this epidemic.

**DIPHTHERIA** One death only, and this is more than usual. I notice that the opinion is gaining ground that many so-called cases of diphtheria are nothing of the kind, and in this view I quite concur.

**DIARRHŒA.** As usual we have but very slight indications of this disease, and which is so common in so many towns. All three cases were in young children.

TYPHOID. The average number of deaths from this disease during the past 10 years is 1·2, and this year it goes up with a bound to 8. This is a very serious matter and one calculated to do the reputation of the town serious harm. The fact is we have had an epidemic of Milk Typhoid, due to the carelessness or worse of a farmer living outside our jurisdiction; and, but for this, we should have had but two deaths from this disease to account for. The time is drawing near for a rearrangement of the laws affecting milk, and milk supply. A cowkeeper a mile from this building may have a half a dozen cases of Typhoid, or other infectious disease, among the members of his family; and I should know nothing until my attention is drawn to it by a succession of cases among the consumers of milk coming from this farm. The mischief is done by this time, and we can only prevent its going farther.

When we consider the care bestowed by the lawmakers of the land on the farmers' pigs and cows in respect of infectious diseases likely to affect their value, it is surely not carrying a principle too far to suggest that a small amount of the same care may be shewn to the unhappy townsmen who consume the produce of the farmer, and who at present are quite at his mercy. It would almost seem that the lives of pigs were of more worth than those of men. The present Notification Act, even if it were compulsory, does not go far enough. When infectious disease is notified as being at a Dairy, or Dairy Farm, information should be sent at once to the Medical Officer of Health of the District where the produce of the dairy is consumed; and this not only by the M.O.H. of the district where the dairy is situated, but also by the Medical Attendant. It might be possible to organize some system of registration and licensing, by which the milk sellers in the town should be expected to give notice as to where the milk sold is procured. This is a question too large in its details to be discussed in full in this report, but it is well worthy the consideration of all Urban Sanitary Authorities, especially those of health resorts. You have, in accordance with my advice, sent a series of suggestions on this matter to the Local Government Board; and we may hope some day to see some change made in the law. There is no new principle involved in these suggestions. Compulsory, general; and Cross Notification, when outside interests are involved, is simply carrying out the present optional Notification. And considering the formalities necessary to empower a shopkeeper to sell petroleum, or a pennyworth of fireworks, we shall not be unreasonable in asking that like precautions are exhibited in trades involving the lives of the community. I have no hesitation in saying that six of our cases of Typhoid deaths



this year were absolutely needless, and ought to have been prevented. I look forward to the time when Typhoid will be as rare as Lock Jaw, and a coroner's inquest held in every case. It is a preventible disease, and an epidemic of such should be a scandal to all concerned; but at present we can't help ourselves.

**WATER SUPPLY.** The question of the purchase of our watershed is not yet settled; doubtless some conclusion will be reached this summer. Mr. Hawksley has confirmed your proposals; but there are other matters in his report which require consideration, and which cannot be treated hurriedly.

**SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.** A test raid has been made by the County Police, and eight samples of milk taken, one of these was found to be adulterated and the vendor fined.

**HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT.** Two houses have been closed as unfit for human habitation. I have made the usual general inspection of the district and paid special attention to certain divisions.

**BAKEHOUSES.** The bakehouses have all been visited and found in most respects satisfactory.

**RETURN OF NEW CASES OF SICKNESS MADE BY POOR LAW MEDICAL OFFICER; AND OF NEW PATIENTS RECEIVED IN THE TORBAY HOSPITAL, AS REQUIRED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.**

NAMES OF DISEASES.				POOR	LAW.	HOSPITAL IN-PATIENTS.	
				Aged under 5 yrs.	Aged 5 yrs. and up.	Aged under 5 yrs.	Aged 5 yrs. and up.
Small Pox	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Scarlatina	...	...	...	2	4	0	5
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Fever	{	Typhus	...	0	0	0	0
		Enteric or Typhoid	...	0	0	0	14
		Continued	...	0	0	0	0
		Relapsing	...	0	0	0	0
		Puerperal	...	0	0	0	0
Cholera	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Measles	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0	0	0	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Injury	...	...	...	0	0	4	48
Other Diseases	...	...	...	45	292	10	256
				47	296	14	325

TOTAL :—Poor Law, 341; Infirmary, 339.

I append the tenth report of the Sanatorium, the Annual Report of your Sanitary Inspector, which give the details of his work, and Mr. Chandler's abstract of meteorological observations, and remain,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

PAUL Q. KARKEEK, M.R.C.S. & L.S.A.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*Torquay, February 5th, 1895.*





# The Medical Officer's Tenth Report on the Sanatorium.

*For the Year ending 25th March, 1894.*

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TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SANITARY COMMITTEE.

SIR,

During the past financial year 70 patients have been admitted to the Sanatorium, and six were in the building on March 25th, 1893; so altogether there have been 76 patients under treatment during the twelve months.

Four of these cases were Typhoid Fever, one was supposed to have been Small Pox, and the remainder were suffering from Scarlatina.

Two deaths occurred: viz., from Scarlatina; 65 were discharged cured; and nine were in the building on March 25th, 1894.

Five patients came from hotels or lodging houses, three from private houses, two from dairies, sixteen from shops, and the remainder from the homes of artisans or labourers; among the latter were nine from laundries.

The Hospital was of service to Her Majesty's Fleet last July, inasmuch as it was used to isolate a seaman supposed to have been ill from Small Pox, but which turned out to be Blood Poisoning.

The majority of the patients were from families of but very limited means, and the fee for medical attendance was paid by the Council in twenty-nine cases.

The cost of working during the twelve months will be seen from the following statement of accounts :—

EXPENDITURE.						£	s.	d.
Diet of Patients	...	...	...	...	...	230	8	0
Wages and Diet of Nurses...	...	...	...	...	...	128	16	3
Laundry	...	...	...	...	...	25	15	0
Curator	...	...	...	...	...	52	4	6
Surveyor's Account	...	...	...	...	...	36	8	3
Tradesmen's Accounts	...	...	...	...	...	18	18	5
Rent, Rates, and Insurance	...	...	...	...	...	15	15	2
Drugs	...	...	...	...	...	9	9	5
Paid for Medical Attendance	...	...	...	...	...	30	9	0
Conveyance of Patients	...	...	...	...	...	10	4	0
Coals, Coke, and Wood	...	...	...	...	...	29	4	6
Rent of Telephone	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Slating Roof of Wooden Building	...	...	...	...	...	55	0	0
Additional Furniture	...	...	...	...	...	56	9	5
New Heating arrangements (portion of cost)	...	...	...	...	...	38	7	6
						£740	9	8
RECEIPTS.						£	s.	d.
Paid by Patients	...	...	...	...	...	88	19	4
Deficit...	...	...	...	...	...	651	10	4
						£740	9	8

It will be of interest to compare the cost of working in previous years with that of the past:—

First Report	...	30	Patients	...	Cost, £197	9	1	...	Deficit, £134	11	10		
Second	„	35	„	...	„	311	0	1	...	„	220	9	6
Third	„	25	„	...	„	395	9	0	...	„	294	11	5
Fourth	„	10	„	...	„	212	9	9	...	„	172	5	3
Fifth	„	11	„	...	„	175	4	11	...	„	175	4	11
Sixth	„	12	„	...	„	245	4	10	...	„	201	6	4
Seventh	„	8	„	...	„	214	5	6	...	„	193	0	5
Eighth	„	11	„	...	„	259	15	6	...	„	234	17	0
Ninth	„	50	„	...	„	529	1	2	...	„	498	5	5
Tenth	„	76	„	...	„	740	9	8	...	„	651	10	4

I regret to say that Mr. and Mrs. Osborne found it necessary to resign their appointment after having done excellent service for some years. They have been re-placed by Mr. and Mrs. Arnall, who have so far given every possible satisfaction. Your permanent nurse, Miss Hunt, has had a very hard year's work to get through ; indeed, the duties have been at times so heavy, that it was found necessary to have two extra nurses to take part of the duty for a portion of the time. At one period there were 29 patients in the building at the same time.

Suggestions calculated to increase the comfort of the patients have been considered, and certain alterations have been ordered which will probably do all that is desired. This work is still in hand.

From October 29th, 1883, to March 25th, 1894, 262 patients have been admitted.

I remain, Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

PAUL Q. KARKEEK M.R.C.S & L.S.A.,

*Medical Officer of Health*

*July 17th, 1894.*





# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

## **The SANITARY INSPECTOR.**

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Municipal Offices, Torquay,  
1st February, 1895.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND  
COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF TORQUAY.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to make to the Council my Seventeenth Annual Report, from a perusal of which it will be observed that the march of Sanitary progress in the Borough, adverted to in these Reports since the year 1890, has been much accelerated during the year just closed, as will be made manifest by the figures hereafter set forth. The chief reason for the advance referred to is the fact that scarcely a single house, large or small, is taken for any term, or sold, without its having been previously examined in every Sanitary detail, and submitted to a rigorous application of the smoke test.

Besides these, there were 45 superior houses which were similarly dealt with for the satisfaction of the owners or occupiers. This makes a total of 147 such cases, as compared with 105 in 1893.

The rentals ranged from £20 to £400 per annum.

I may observe that the execution of the necessary works give occupation for about 30 skilled artisans and labourers every week, and at an estimated cost of £3,000 in the year for the work done.

The work accomplished has been classified in the following manner :—

249 Thorough House Inspections were made, of which 147 were Villas or Lodging Houses, which were surveyed and tested prior to re-letting or sale

In these latter cases, from three to seven, or an average of five smoke testings, were necessary for each house during the progress of the works, and before they were left as satisfactory. This will make a total of 725 visits to these houses alone.

116 New Sanitary conveniences were fixed.

45 Old ones were cleaned and repaired.

55 Defective Soil-pipes were put outside houses.

146 Drain and Soil-pipe Ventilators were erected.

25 Blocked Drains were cleared.

324 New Interceptors and Surface Traps were fixed.

72 Waste and Rain-pipes were cut off from drains.

155 New Pipe-drains were laid, in lieu of bad ones.

9 Old Masonry Drains were destroyed.

2 Cesspits were destroyed.

16 Yards were bricked or cemented and drained.

53 Offensive accumulations were removed.

14 Pig and Fowl Nuisances were abated.

95 Bedrooms, Bedding and Clothing were fumigated.

147 Supplies of Disinfectants were distributed.

10 Back Premises were cleansed and limewashed.

116 New Flushing arrangements made for closets.

14 New Drinking Cisterns were fixed.

29 Cisterns were cleaned and covered.

2 Underground Tanks were disused.

2 Polluted Wells condemned and filled in.

8 Windows or Ventilators provided for bedrooms.

10 Overcrowding cases were abated.

2 Ashpits paved and drained.

These items added together make a total of 1,367 separate operations executed on 632 premisses ; as against 1,131 improvements in 504 houses during the previous year, which had been 25 per cent. above the average of all previous years.

I feel it my duty to reiterate the advice which was given to owners and others in my Reports for 1890-91, viz., to carefully examine the feet of ventilation pipes as to their soundness of joints, with the drains, and to clear away the rust accumulations, as in most cases tried this year I found the pipes in question practically useless, to say no worse.

The common Lodging Houses were periodically inspected, and considerable re-constructions carried out in two of them, as advised by the Medical Officer in his Report on Pimlico some time since.

The Slaughter House, also, has undergone re-drainage, and is now in every respect more sanitary than a year ago.

The Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds, have engaged attention, but only in a minor degree, as they are, as a rule, very creditably kept in Torquay.

The Sanitary arrangements of Trinity Schools and of one of the Hotels were overhauled, and improved systems were properly carried out.

It is pleasing to have to record some improvement in the building trades in 1894, as 49 New Houses were erected, as compared with only 28 surveyed in the previous year.

An important alteration has been effected, through the co-operation of the Borough Surveyor, in the matter of certifying for the proper laying of the drains of new houses. Hitherto a careful examination was made before allowing the pipes to be covered in; but now all are smoke-tested as well, so that unseen defects may be revealed and remedied immediately. The builders have fallen in with the new plan, and now vie with each other as to who shall have the fewest leaks or none at all. The most important new building is the Devon and Cornwall Bank, which is solidly built and complete in all Sanitary requirements.

The office work has, of course, kept pace with that out of doors. This involves the keeping of suitable records of all letters, notices and transactions. 73 preliminary notices were issued, and 522 letters or communications written during the year; as against 382 letters and 69 notices in the year 1893.

Legal notices were necessary in only six cases, and again I have the pleasure to report that no legal proceedings were called for; proving conclusively the general consensus of opinion in the Borough, that Sanitary requirements in the dwellings are of paramount importance and brook no delay, so that the well-earned reputation of Torquay shall be maintained.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

CHARLES MACMAHON, CERT. SAN. INST.,

*Sanitary Inspector & Building Surveyor.*



*Latitude*  $50^{\circ}29'$  N.: *Longitude*  $3^{\circ}32'$  W. 286 feet above mean sea-level.

In 1895 the complete Barometrical and Anemometrical Observations will be added to this Report.









